

**From:** Evil Mr Henry  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 12/10/01 12:39pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

I have followed the Microsoft Antitrust case for a while now, and have an idea for the settlement. This idea comes from several unrelated news items. First of all, Microsoft has decided to stop supporting DOS and Windows 3.1 (and will stop supporting other products in the years to come); next, Microsoft has put "Product Activation" in Windows XP; and finally is the actual antitrust case.

When Microsoft stops supporting Windows XP, people will no longer be able to use it legally due to the product activation and so will be forced to upgrade to the newest version of Windows thanks to a product defect.

My proposal is this: If Microsoft decides to stop supporting a product, they must release the source code to that product and allow people to change it. If this is adopted, it will be impossible for Microsoft to force users to upgrade their version of Windows. In the above example, a person who could not use Windows XP due to the product activation would be able to download a patch to remove that "feature" (generated almost as soon as the source code became available) once Microsoft stops supporting Windows XP.

This by no means should be the only action against Microsoft, but it will help destroy their monopoly in the operating system field using their own products as competition. Thank you for considering this option.

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